



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Grease to Gas: Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) and Cogeneration Facilities Tour and Ribbon-Cutting to Celebrate Earth Day**

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 18, 2013**

The City of Santa Barbara will host a Tour and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at the new Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) and Cogeneration facilities at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant on Monday, April 22, 2013, just in time to celebrate Earth Day.

The event will be held at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant at 1:00 p.m. where a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony will feature guest speakers followed by a tour of the FOG receiving facility. Parking for the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony will be provided at the Fire Training Facility, located at 30 South Olive Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Attendees are asked to arrive early. Parking attendants will be available from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. to direct you. Ride sharing is encouraged.

The Cogeneration facility will generate electricity and hot water, and was funded through a power purchase agreement with California Power Partners. The system will provide most of the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant's power needs using renewable methane generated by the plant, enough electricity to power over 700 local area homes.

The new FOG facility at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant converts "grease to gas" utilizing the waste stream of selected fats, oils, and grease collected by Marborg Industries from area restaurants. Marborg, a locally owned and operated business, collects, screens, and delivers FOG liquids to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, thus reducing hauling and disposal costs.

The collected materials are introduced to the Wastewater Treatment Plant's digester units where biogas is produced. The resulting methane gas is a renewable energy source, yielding up to approximately 4,500 kWh of electricity per day. Savings from electricity production and reduced hauling costs lower Plant operational costs. Additionally, carbon dioxide emissions can be reduced by up to an estimated 17 metric tons per day.

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